

Appl. No. 10/675,797
Amdt. Dated February 27, 2007
Reply to Office Action of November 27, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 81864.0026
Customer No.: 26021

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 27, 2006. Claims 1-6 remain in this application. Claim 1 is the independent Claim. It is believed that no new matter is involved in the arguments presented herein. Reconsideration and entrance of the amendment in the application are respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Office Action noted that the Information Disclosure Statement submission dated July 19, 2006 does not include a concise explanation of the relevance of Chinese Patent Document No. 1,258,082 A, which corresponds to EP 1014 392 A2. In response, Applicant provides the following explanation and is concurrently submitting a copy of the above reference (EP 1014 392 A2) with the present submission.

In Claim 1, the amounts of Al and Cu are defined as being, “0.02% to 0.6% by weight of Al and/or Cu.” In contrast, in the examples of EP 1014 392 A2 (Chinese Patent Document No. 1,258,082 A), the total amounts of Al and Cu are as follows:

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| | Amount of Al (wt%) | Amount of Cu (wt%) | Total Amount of Al and Cu (wt%) |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Example 1 and Comparative Example 1 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.7 |
| Example 2 and Comparative Example 2 | 0.8 | 0.1 | 0.9 |
| Example 3 and Comparative Example 3 | 0.7 | 0.1 | 0.8 |
| Example 4 and Comparative Example 4 | 0.6 | 0.1 | 0.7 |

Accordingly, EP 1014 392 A2 (Chinese Patent Document No. 1,258,082 A) and the present application are different in the amounts of Al and Cu.

In Claim 3, a suitable sintering temperature range is 40°C or more. In contrast, EP 1014 392 A2 does not mention such a broad suitable sintering temperature range. Recordation and consideration of that document are respectfully requested.

Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 1-6 were provisionally rejected under 35 USC § 101 over Claims 1-3 and 6 of copending Application No. 10/799,243; Claims 1-6 were provisionally rejected under nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 1-6 of copending Application No. 10/799,243; Claims 1-6 were rejected under obviousness-type double patenting over the Claims of copending Application No. 10/799,243 and 10/675,230 each in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,595,608 (Takebuchi); Claims 1-6 were rejected under obviousness-type double patenting over the Claims U.S. Patent No. 6,811,620 in view of Takebuchi.

Appl. No. 10/675,797

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Regarding the statutory double patenting rejection, claim 1 in copending Application No. 10/799,243 will be amended, rendering that rejection moot.

Regarding the rejections of Claims 1-6, Applicant is concurrently submitting a Statement of Common Ownership and Terminal Disclaimer between the present application and copending Application No. 10/799,243, 10/799,153, 10/675,230 and U.S. Patent No. 6,811,620. Accordingly, the rejection of Claims 1-6 are moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the above rejection are respectfully requested.

Accordingly, independent Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

The remaining claims depend either directly from independent Claim 1, and recite additional features of the invention and are therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (310) 785-4721 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

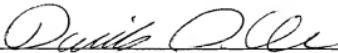
Appl. No. 10/675,797
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Attorney Docket No. 81864.0026
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If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: February 27, 2007

By: 
Dariush G. Adli
Registration No. 51,386
Attorney for Applicant(s)

1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1400
Los Angeles, California 90067
Phone: 310-785-4600
Fax: 310-785-4601